GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5840
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
CAPTURE OF INDIAN STUDENT
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Indian student escapes from Chechnya but stuck in Russia` appearing in the Indian Express dated April 2, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a) Yes Sir.

b) The report in the Indian Express and other similar reports in the Indian media were based on Russian Television reports.The Russian media had reported the capture by the Russian Federal troops of an Indian national among some rebels in the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation. It had been further reported that the Indian national, Shri Satyanarayan Raghunath Mishra, a student, had been detained for interrogation by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation at Makhachkala, capital of the Republic of Dagestan of the Russian Federation.

c) As soon as Government became aware of reports of Shri Mishra`s detention, it immediately sought details from the Russian authorities. As a result of continuous interaction with the Russian authorities, Government has now been officially informed that the interrogation of Shri Mishra has been completed and that no evidence was found to suggest that he was involved in the fighting alongside rebels in the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation against the Russian Federal troops.Shri Mishra is currently under the protective custody of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

Government is in touch with the Russian authorities regarding Shri Mishra`s repatriation to India.